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14 April 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the National Disaster Support Task Group

1. The fifth meeting of the National Disaster Support Task Group was convened at 1300 hours on 31 March 1970 at the US Geological Survey Facility, Reston, Virginia.

2. Following a review of the 24 March meeting minutes, [redacted] USGS, presented a short briefing on the advantages of employing a framing camera, namely the A-2 system, for obtaining disaster coverage. This system flown at 70,000 feet provides a per frame ground coverage of a five by ten mile area at a scale of 1:35,000. The USGS is opposed to flying panoramic cameras in lieu of metric systems since panoramic frames are more difficult to mosaic. This difficulty is compounded because, in general, it requires more panoramic frames to cover the same flight line. George mentioned that when OEP places a request for disaster coverage, items such as camera system, flight path, filter and film type should be specified. This seems like a sound idea until one considers such problems as system availability, flight path requirements of the aircraft, film type on hand, etc. The better solution would be to indicate area of needed coverage and let the Air Force do the rest. George suggested that we specify such film types as Kodak Plus-X Aerographic or Tri-X Aerographic exposed using a Wratten 12 (medium yellow) filter in order to get high quality results. This comment enforces the approach that we should indicate areas and let the Air Force do the rest since they normally stock film types 3400, 3401 or 3404 for their reconnaissance needs and the requesting of coverage on a "commercial" type film may cause some confusion. The use of operational film types will also provide higher quality imagery than the commercial films. The need for metric photography for disaster analysis is unclear to me since I feel that an interpreter would prefer to work from larger scale (panoramic) imagery. [redacted] will look into the aircraft/system availability and location.

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3. [] investigated the complaint that USGS had not received KH-4 domestic coverage north of 43 degrees north latitude. Some old coverage of this area was located and forwarded to Reston; however, there has been no recent coverage of this region and, thus, USGS has not received any. Reston was reassured that they will receive all domestic KH-4 coverage, with the exception of special classification edited areas.

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4. [] USGS, read a portion of a Senate bill concerning National Disaster Support/Relief introduced by Sen. Birch Bayh [] stated that this bill was introduced in order to pre-empt an Administration bill which will soon be presented. It is expected that this bill will provide for action prior to national disaster declaration and would, thus, directly benefit the proposal of our Task Group.

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5. Since the data base (KH-4 domestic coverage), a TK working area and lab facilities are available at USGS, Reston, it has been decided that the disaster photographic interpretation task will be accomplished there. Should interpretation needs require the employment of specialized equipment not available at Reston, other facilities will be tapped for support. The NPIC may be asked to contribute support in the mensuration and reproduction areas when such support is needed to answer special requirements. It is expected that such requests will constitute only a minor effort.

6. The remainder of the meeting was spent in committee action. I worked with Dr. Otto Guthe and [] on the Tasking Channel Committee. Following subsequent consultation with [] PPBS/NPIC, it was recommended to the committee that the appropriate tasking channel for the NPIC was through the Steering Committee/ARGO to the DCI.

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7. The next Task Group Meeting will be an all day session beginning at 0800 hours on 7 April 1970.

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Section I
Image Evaluation Branch
APSD/TSSG/NPIC

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